

1998

City of Augusta 1998 Annual Report

Augusta, Me.

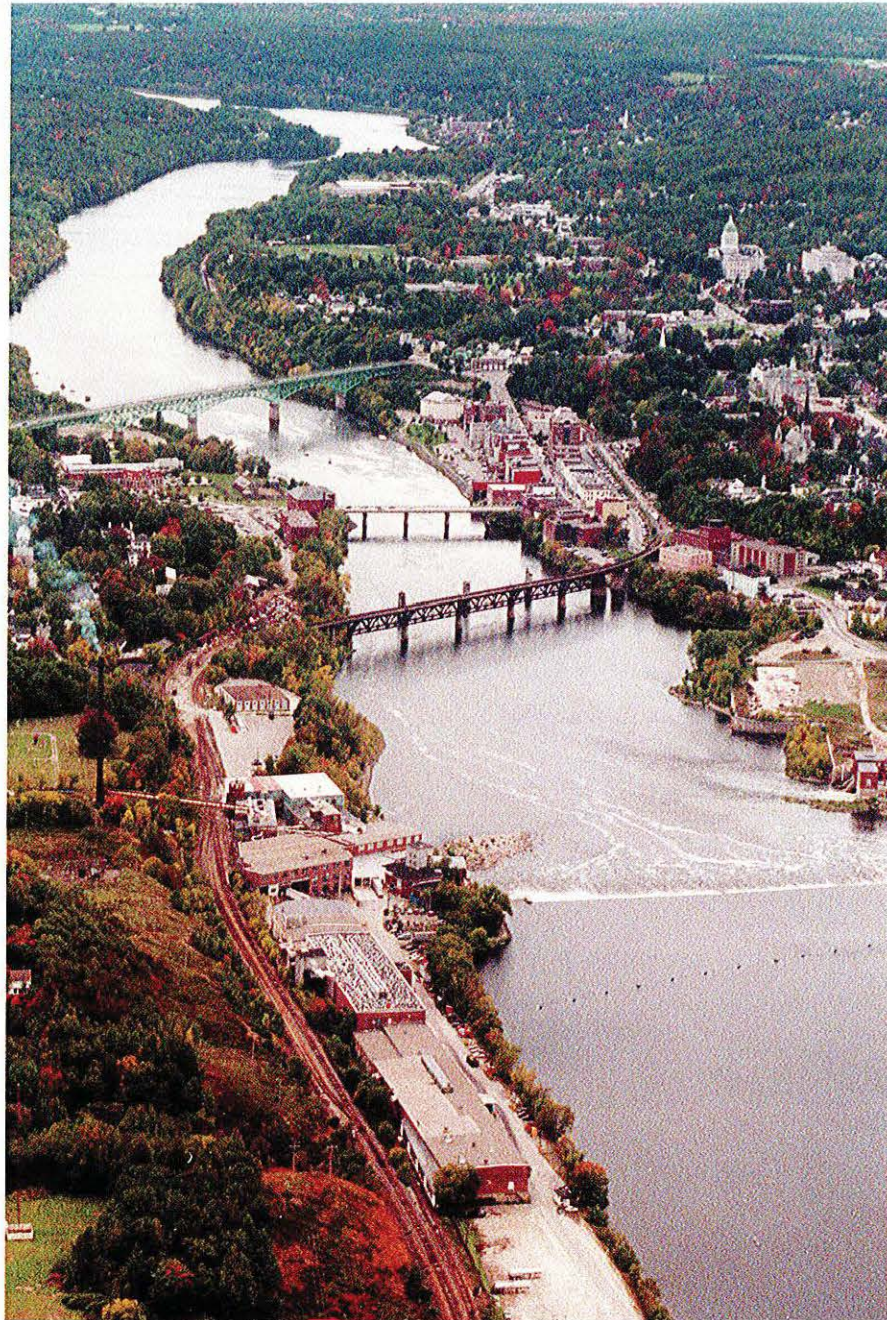
Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs>

Repository Citation

Augusta, Me., "City of Augusta 1998 Annual Report" (1998). *Maine Town Documents*. 6344.
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs/6344>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Town Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

City of AUGUSTA



1998 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

Bureau or Subject	Page
Vision Statement and Mission Statement.....	1
Membership on City Boards/Commissions/Committees.....	2
Mayor's Message and City Council Members.....	3
Schedule of Public Meetings.....	4
City Manager's Report.....	5
Augusta State Airport Report	7
Economic Development Report	9
Assessor's Report	11
City Clerk's Report	12
Police Department Report	14
Audit Reports	16
Fire and Rescue Department Report	19
Civic Center Report	20
Engineering Report.....	22
Planning Board Report	23
Solid Waste Report	25
Public Works Report.....	27
Codes Report	29
Recreation Bureau Report	30
Parks and Cemeteries Report	31
Lithgow Library Report	32
Health and Welfare Report	33
Old Fort Western Report	35
Education Report	36
Arborist Report	37
Cable Television Committee Report	38
Tree Board Report.....	39
Maine Legislators/U.S. Congress Listing.....	40
Telephone Numbers.....	Inside Back Cover

Front cover photo provided by *Kennebec Journal* (Toby Hollis, Photographer)

City of Augusta Vision Statement

Augusta is a world-class capital city:

- * Where entrepreneurs start, grow, and maintain a variety of businesses;
- * Where citizens pursue life-long learning in first-rate schools, libraries, historic, and cultural facilities;
- * Where residents, workers, and tourists circulate around and enjoy the Heart of Augusta — on both sides of the Kennebec River, along Water Street, and throughout the Capitol complex;
- * Where travelers appreciate the historic and natural scenery;
- * Where homebuyers and renters of all ages and incomes are drawn by safe and appealing neighborhoods, and
- * Where taxpayers enjoy competitive tax rates and superior services.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Augusta City Council shall achieve this vision by:

- * Acting as a model of teamwork and efficiency in its own deliberations;
- * Creating an ongoing partnership with state government; and
- * Organizing a responsive, flexible, and effective economic development program.

Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Citizens Who Served During 1998

Assessment Review Board

James R. Chase
John O. Clark, Sr.
Maurice G. Fortin
William B. Leet
Anthony Pavone

BOCA Board of Appeals

Julian F. Beale
Herbert R. Doten
Edward W. Millett
Stephen J. Roberge
Paul J. Rodrigue
Jeff Shostak

Cable TV Advisory Committee

Edwin J. Charles
Ellerbe P. Cole
Alisa K. Cross
Mark Houdlette
Frank A. Johnson
Paul D. Lessard
Roger G. Levesque
Walter T. Ruark

Civil Service Commission

Anne Gardiner
Thomas A. Sotir
Roger H. Willette

Community Development Advisory Committee/ Housing Alliance Committee

Valerie Arbour
Lawrence Dutil
Dale E. Gilbert
David Gingras
Aline A. Lachance
Gloria Morrisette
Roger R. Pomerleau
David A. White

Conservation Commission

Sandra Faucher
Mary M. Gingrow-Shaw
David E. Hassen
Andrea Lord
Roberta F. Record
John Harvey Versteeg

Fort Western Trustees

Richard W. Billings
Linnette A. Burns
Jane Coryell
Vicki Crawford
Patsy Crockett
John V. Finnegan
Karen D. Foster
Dale E. Gilbert
Richard Godfrey
Beverly Miner Hatheway
Edward I. Heath
Kim E. Leupold
Mary McCarthy
Andrew E. Silsby
Karen Stebbins
Brian Whitney
Marjorie Wright

Historic Preservation Commission

David Paul Barnard
Patsy Crockett
David R. Dennett
Anthony J. Douin
Mary Maher McCarthy

Housing Authority

Gregory DeWitt
Jean Marshall Dulac
Raymond Randall Foster
Brian Marson, Jr.
Daniel A. Nichols
Raymond Paquette
Elizabeth Ann Trask

Lithgow Library Trustees

Joan Callahan
Donald J. Gasink
Gabriella Howard
Susan LaCasse
James A. McKenna, III
Paul Riese
Elizabeth A. Soares
Patten Williams

Parking District

Jed Davis
John V. Finnegan
Thomas R. Johnson
Louise Quirion
Barbara Rodrigue
Bruce N. Schatz

Planning Board

Robert W. Corey
Ronald L. Dutil
Paul R. Harris
Cathy Lee Morris
Thomas S. Radsky
Grant W. Siwinski
David P. Smith
Vaughan H. Stevens, III
Patricia J. Zabrocki

Recreation Advisory Board

Elizabeth Adams
Tammy Annis
Gary P. Burns
Cheryl D. Clukey
John D. Coughlin, Jr.
Robert W. Fairbrother
Edward E. Haskell, Jr.
George M. LeVecque
Mary T. Leinonen
Paul Potvin
Paul L. Reitchel
Shawn P. Roy
Gary C. Williams

Registration Appeals Board

Lucille Cloutier
Patsy A. Crockett
Linda Hadley-Rood
Frank A. Johnson
Sylvia M. Ladd
Joseph Scott Tardiff

Sanitary District

Jack R. Brown
John Dudley
John B. Forster
Robert G. Redman

Tree Board

W. Joan Bartlett
Norman S. Elvin
David L. Gomeau
Diane Hastings
Brian Marson, III
Mitchell Michaud
Robert L. Nazlian
James Nichols
Ramona Pace
Rita K. Wheelock

Water District

Frederick M. Bartlett
Beverly W. Beaucage
Bruce E. Berger

Zoning Board of Appeals

Marion Hylan Barr
Chris Belanger
Nancy B. Birch
Paul Harris
Gautrey J. Musk
Jane Orbeton
John W. Royce
Thomas E. Simpson

Mayor's Message

A year ago I forecasted that 1998 would be a year of stabilizing City leadership and planning for progress. In April, we hired a new City Manager, Bill Bridgeo. In this singular move, the City Council brought energetic stability to City Center. Then he and I worked together with the City Council to provide an Action Plan for the City of Augusta. With specific priorities, both staff and citizens, through the representative authority of the Council, have united and are pushing to achieve important goals. Hire a leader and make a plan. Well done, Council.

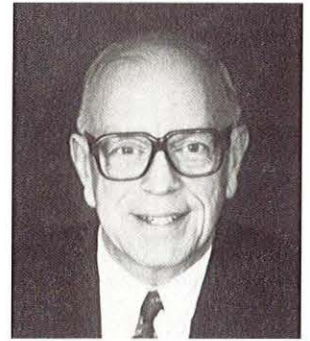
At the same time, good things were happening:

1. Historic agreement was reached to remove Edwards Dam, thus jump-starting the Capital Riverfront Improvement District.
2. "Homestead" property tax relief from the State averaged \$150 per homeowner, while the City Council held down the mil rate increase, resulting in a \$100 net decrease in the tax bill for the average homeowner.
3. Not only did we survive the ice storm of the century, but also we advanced the "greening" of Augusta by planting a whole array of flowers, shrubs and trees.
4. Economic development was reorganized, in the process creating the Augusta Development Commission, and positioning the City to work even more effectively with the Board of Trade for economic vitality (jobs, that is!).

We are a small city—The best of both: big enough for action, such as being the Capital City of Maine, and small enough to be close-knit and friendly. Read this Annual Report and show your pride by being a community volunteer in some significant way.

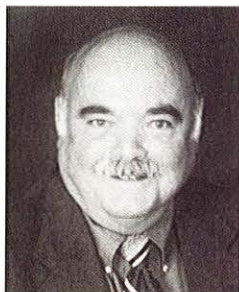
Once again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor. I love Augusta.

—John Bridge
Mayor



John Bridge

1998 City Council



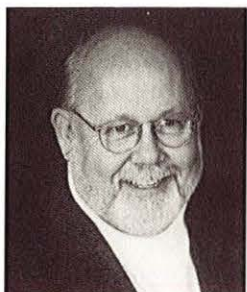
Richard J. Dumont
At-Large



William D. Burney, Jr.
At-Large



A. Delaine Nye
At-Large



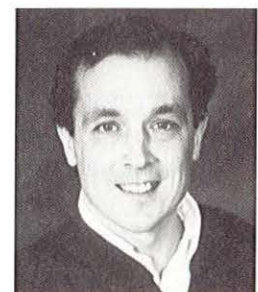
Daniel W. Pomerleau
Ward 1



William E. Dowling
Ward 2



Ronald W. Bourget
Ward 3



Kenneth R. Knight
Ward 4

Schedule of Public Meetings

Airport Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. – Augusta State Airport

Assessment Review Board

When needed

Augusta Development Commission

4th Thursday, 4:00 p.m. — City Center

BOCA Board of Appeals

When needed

Cable TV Advisory Committee

3rd Thursday, 4:00 p.m. – Capital Area
Technical Center

City Council Business Meeting

1st & 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m. – City Center

City Council Informational Meeting

2nd & 4th Monday, 7:00 p.m. – City Center

Community Development Advisory Comm./**Augusta Affordable Housing Alliance**

1st Wednesday, 5:10 p.m. – City Center

Conservation Commission

2nd Monday, 7:30 a.m. – City Center

Fort Western Board of Trustees

Last Wednesday, 7:30 A.m. – City Center
Except – Feb., Apr., July, Aug., Dec.

Historic Preservation

1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. – City Center

Housing Authority

1st Monday, 7:00 p.m. – City Center

Lithgow Library Board of Trustees

2nd Tuesday, 6:45 p.m. – Lithgow Library
Except – July, August

Parking District

3rd Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – City Center

Planning Board

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. – City Center

Recreation Advisory Board

3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m. – City Center

Registration Appeals Board

When needed

Sanitary District Trustees

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. – Sanitary District

Tree Board

1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. – City Center

Water District Trustees

3rd Monday, 8:00 a.m. – Water District
Holiday – Tuesday

Zoning Board of Appeals

1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m. – City Center

OFFICE HOURS

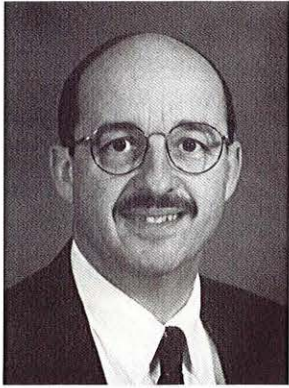
City Center: Monday–Friday – 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Civic Center: Monday–Friday–8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hatch Hill Sanitary Landfill: Tuesday–Saturday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lithgow Library: Monday–Thursday – 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday–Saturday – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Children's Room open same hours
(July & August – Close at 12:00 on Saturdays)

City Manager's Report



Early in January 1998, I flew from Canandaigua, New York, where I had served as City Manager since leaving Maine eleven years earlier, to Portland. When I arrived, it was to a mix of ice and freezing rain. Slowly working my way to Augusta, I arrived at City Hall just in time for my initial interview with Mayor Bridge and the City Council for the vacant City Manager's position (so much so that I hadn't the time to change from jeans into a business suit). No one that evening realized this to be the onset of the most destructive winter storm in Maine's history. With some effort, I got out of Augusta the next day and over the next few weeks watched from a distance as your city government responded to tremendous challenges. I needn't tell those who were in Augusta at that time how admirably city government responded but, for the record, as a veteran city manager, I can say that Augusta's elected leaders and career employees performed in an outstanding fashion. In particular, David Jowdry, filling in as Acting City Manager, demonstrated strength of leadership and poise under duress to an extraordinary degree. David, for the second time in his career as a senior Augusta administrator, capably served as the City's Chief Executive from October 1997 to April 1998. He is owed a special debt of gratitude for all he did during that critical time. Spring began nature's healing process from the ravages of the ice storm but it will be years before we will be free of the costly aftereffects to our urban forest.

Immediately upon my return to take the job last April, I found myself in the middle of intense negotiations between the State of Maine, the City and Edwards Manufacturing Company regarding the removal of the Edwards Dam. Through May, those negotiations continued, culminating in an historic agreement to remove the dam and restore the Kennebec River to its original free-flowing condition. Though many good arguments can (and for years to come, no doubt will) be made that it was wrong for the City to be party to the Edwards Accord, the Mayor, Council, Citizens' Dam Committee and staff for the most part agreed that the avoided legal battles, related costs, and potential liabilities warranted our participation. Further, from the Edwards Accord sprang a fresh spirit of cooperation between State government and its Capital City unparalleled in anyone's memory. As you read this, Governor King and his cabinet (with wonderful help from our four local Legislators) are aggressively promoting to the Legislature a variety of measures — many with substantial dollars attached — that will uniquely benefit Augusta. Most promising among them is a Capital Riverfront Improvement District to be created by legislation drafted by Senator Beverly Daggett, that will forge a lasting partnership between the State and the City for the restoration and revitalization of the City's riverfront area. Over time, I believe this District will be the vehicle to rejuvenate the entirety of Augusta's traditional center of commerce and civic activity.

There were some good-byes and some new faces in City government in 1998. Bill Dowling replaced John Bridge as Mayor; Bill Burney took a well-deserved break from municipal services after 16 years as Mayor and Councilmember; and Councilmembers Ken Knight and Dan Pomerleau left the Council. They were replaced by former Councilmember Mary Mayo-Wescott, former Fire Chief Norman Arbour; Karen Foster and Tom Sotir. On the administrative side, the vacancy for the Director of City Services was filled by the appointment of retired Navy Captain R. Kelly Gray; Gardiner Fire Chief Larry Bradley became Augusta Fire Chief; Bruce Keller, Town Planner for Charlton, Massachusetts, became our City Planner; Ellen Blair of Motivational Services, Inc. became the City's first full-time Human Resources Director (and, in a great cooperative initiative, also provides these services on a contract basis to the Water and Sanitary Districts, saving all three entities money and bringing them closer together so as to encourage more cooperation in the future).

With City Council approval, the City's economic development program was restructured. Ordinance 389, spearheaded by veteran Councilor Dick Dumont, created the Augusta Development Commission, an 11-member board, appointed by Mayor and Council and charged with developing and implementing City-wide economic growth policies. The Commission, chaired by attorney Roger Katz, will be the catalyst for economic development well into the next century. The keystone of Ordinance 389 is cooperation with area-wide agencies and resources. Although the City and the Augusta Board of Trade will no longer share one person in the dual role of City Economic Development Director and Augusta Board of Trade Executive Director, close ties to this prominent business group and others (like the Chamber of Commerce and Heart of Augusta) will be maintained and managed by the Commission and City staff.

In August of 1998, Mayor John Bridge led the City Council, senior staff, and a variety of community representatives through a strategic planning process. Assisted by Hallowell consultant Frank O'Hara, Council identified 14 priority items upon which it will focus through 1999. Among those priorities were:

- Promotion of a third Kennebec River bridge (\$5 million of funding for which has been included in the recently released King Administration budget)
- Promotion of Downtown Improvements, the Mt. Vernon Gateway, and the Capital Riverfront Improvement District
- Development of Neighborhood Improvement Program, including establishing a pilot program on the West side in the area around Winthrop Street and Western Avenue to return that residential area to its traditional grandeur, and
- Aggressive pursuit of a new high school (currently moving forward through the efforts of a joint Council/School Board committee that has already retained an architectural/engineering firm to perform a site analysis at the vocational/technical school property).

The Mayor, City Council and I are committed to following through on the goals established in the strategic planning process. I value greatly the productivity that comes from good planning and focused effort. I intend to revisit the strategic planning process on a routine basis.

Notwithstanding the fact that I have 20 years of prior experience in city management, there has been and continues to be much for me to learn since assuming my responsibilities here. I have been helped immensely by both Mayor Bridge and Mayor Dowling, two gracious and dedicated Augustans, wholeheartedly committed to this City. I have also enjoyed, since my first day, the unflinching support and assistance of the City's employees. I can assure the resident and taxpayers of Augusta that your municipal workforce is a first rate group of men and women — productive, conscientious, and eager to do a good job. Combined with an energetic City Council dedicated to moving Augusta forward, four State Legislators who never refuse to help and are strong advocates for us, and business and community groups with a strong tradition of seeking what is best for Augusta, I can imagine only success as we move forward through 1999 and beyond.

Mine is an open door (most of the time!) and I encourage you to feel welcome in City Hall and my office. I appreciate the opportunity to serve Augusta and look forward with excitement to the future.

— William R. Bridgeo
City Manager

Augusta State Airport



Bob McGee

By all important measures, 1998 was a successful and eventful year at the Augusta State Airport. Commercial airline passenger traffic through the Terminal Building rose to 8,372 total passengers, an increase of nearly 31% over 1997. In parallel with the year's increase in passenger traffic, cars parked at the Airport increased by 22.2% to 1,895 auto parking nights, and car rental activity increased by over 35% to 3,115 vehicles. These increases in airport activity were largely due to the stimulative effect of a promotional air fare which Colgan Air offered for much of the year, a maturing of the marketing alliance which Colgan Air entered into with Continental Airlines in mid-1997, and the effect of a more attractive flight schedule for Augusta-originating passengers which Colgan Air introduced in the fall of 1997.

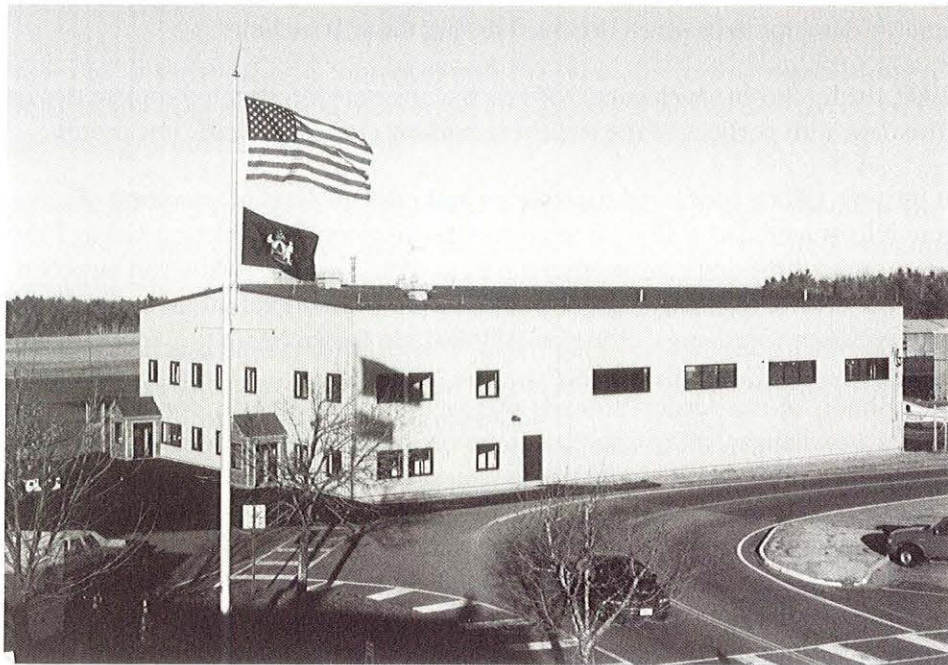
Corporate aviation activity, however, as measured by the arrival of multi-engine aircraft for which landing fees are assessed, totaled 304 for the year, a reduction of nearly 35% from the prior year. At the end of the year, there were 34 privately-owned aircraft based at the Augusta State Airport.

Significant events or developments which occurred during the year include:

- In January 1998, the Ice Storm which paralyzed much of the state forced the complete closure of the Airport for a period of five days, with portions of the airfield remaining closed for nearly one month.
- Throughout the year, efforts continued to publicize and raise the level of awareness of services provided at the Airport. These efforts included a 45-minute informational video broadcast on Cable 7 during the month of January, a two-month advertising campaign in the form of an aviation, airline and airport trivia contest during March and April, a series of speaking engagements to local service organizations by the Airport Manager in June and July, and a television commercial airing on WGME-13 in December.
- In March, demolition of the Airport's nearly 60-year-old F.B.O. hangar commenced to make way for the construction of a new hangar/office complex to be occupied by Maine Instrument Flight. The building was completed in October, providing Augusta with the finest F.B.O. facility of its kind in New England.
- Following the resignation of two of the Airport's maintenance staff in the early summer, the opportunity was taken to make some significant change to the Maintenance Department's staffing and procedures. Shannon Cormier was promoted to Supervisor, Maintenance & Operations, Paul Morin was recruited as Maintenance Crewman, with the balance of the maintenance staff complement hired on a seasonal basis.
- In August, Pine State Airlines, which had served the Augusta State Airport with scheduled flights to Portland, Presque Isle and Frenchville for over three years, announced that it was suspending its entire scheduled service operation effective the end of that month.
- In November, the Airport took a major step in upgrading its crash-fire-rescue capability when it took delivery of an Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting vehicle that had been declared surplus by the Northern Maine Regional Airport in Presque Isle.
- On November 10th, the Annual General Meeting of the Maine Airport Managers Association was hosted in Augusta. At that meeting, Bob McGee was elected President of the Association for 1999.
- In December, the U.S. Department of Transportation tentatively reselected Colgan Air to provide Essential Air Service at Augusta for a further two years, thereby insuring a continuity of scheduled service between Augusta and Boston.

- The Airport Advisory Committee remained active throughout the year under the very concerned and capable chairmanship of Bennett Katz. The Committee formed several subcommittees or task forces to focus on a number of issues relevant to the growth and development of the Airport, including the revitalization of the popular Augusta Air Show, the consideration of the Airport Terminal Building as a Public Transportation Hub for the City of Augusta, and the creation of a Marketing & Development Subcommittee to explore new and creative projects to enhance the Airport's financial viability. Retiring from the committee during the course of the year as formal voting members were Bob Johnson, Bill Bridgeo (as City Manager) and Jean Belair (as Director of Economic Development). New appointments included Betsy Cook, Diane Wagner, Phil Johnson and Gary Peachey.

— Robert McGee
Airport Manager



AUGUSTA STATE AIRPORT

Economic Development

Nineteen hundred ninety-eight showed development progress on many fronts with short- and long-term benefits for residents and taxpayers in all areas of the City of Augusta.

In the spring, the City Council made national news by accepting a State of Maine-brokered plan for removal of the Edwards Dam from the Kennebec River. Late in 1997, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission had made history by refusing to issue a relicensing order for the dam and ordering the owners, Edwards Manufacturing and the City of Augusta, to remove the dam and restore the river for the passage of various fish species. Under the proposal, spearheaded by Governor Angus King, the costs for dam removal and site remediation will be borne by private concerns, including Bath Iron Works Corporation and up-river dam owners.

The Edwards agreement was significant for many reasons, not the least of which was the formation of a partnership between the City and the State of Maine that is expected not only to open up the river for recreational purposes, but to stimulate long-anticipated downtown redevelopment and revitalization. As 1998 ended, legislation was being prepared to create the Capital Riverfront Improvement District (CRID), an independent authority comprised equally of state and local officials, to manage and fund the improvement effort on both sides of the Kennebec River.

Included in the landscape anticipated for the CRID is the Kennebec Arsenal property, long a priority of the City Council. Legislation passed by Congress in 1998 paved the way for the State of Maine to pass title to the Arsenal to a development authority for restoration and redevelopment of the site as a tourism and recreation attraction. Funding both for CRID and the Arsenal is to be included in the Governor's budget for Fiscal 2000, with matching funds contemplated from the City.

At the same time, cooperation between the City and the State of Maine continued on plans to redevelop the AMHI complex as an eastside office park and to restore and refurbish the State House complex, a project which was begun mid-year. This necessitated the relocation of several state departments to other areas of the City, including Key Plaza on Water Street, which became the temporary home of the Attorney General's Office. The addition of a significant number of new office workers to downtown Augusta for at least three years bodes well for the economy of Augusta's center.

Downtown Augusta was not the only recipient of good news during 1998. Development of the Marketplace at Augusta continued apace with the announcement of a major Wal-Mart expansion and plans by Home Depot to locate in the complex during 1999. Also, a new Denny's restaurant opened just down the street from the Marketplace prior to the Christmas holidays.

Also of note, were expansions announced for MaineGeneral Medical Center on Augusta's eastside and Shaw's Supermarket on Western Avenue. A neighbor of Shaw's in the same shopping center, Service Merchandise, will remain open in spite of store closing announced in other parts of Maine, seeming to underscore Augusta's prominence as one of the state's top three retail hubs.

Activity also occurred at the Civic Center Office Park, as a new kidney dialysis center neared completion and construction of a new office building to house the Finance Authority of Maine was announced. When the latter is completed, the complex envisioned over twenty-five years ago by the Augusta Board of Trade will have achieved full build-out.

The last lot owned by the Board of Trade in the Central Maine Business Park was also under contract at the end of 1998, fueling a need for the community to identify where future business growth will occur. One project under consideration is an Augusta Technology Park, which is proposed to surround the SCI facility on Route 27. A smaller version of the proposal which was put forth by Augusta in the competition for a regional

“super park”—a competition that was won by the Town of Oakland—the Augusta Technology Park is envisioned as a state-of-the-art satellite facility that will compliment, rather than compete with, the regional business center.

Another area where development might occur in the future is the corridor created by the anticipated construction of the Third Bridge and its associated, limited access, connector road. Potential river crossing locations were pared down to two by late in the year—both north of the Civic Center interchange on I-95. As 1998 came to an end, prospects for the Third Bridge project to be included in the Maine Department of Transportation’s six-year plan and biennial budget looked extremely promising.

Providing a blueprint for development in Southern Kennebec County well into the next century is the Augusta Labor Market Area Study, completed during 1998 by Mt. Auburn Associates under contract to the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments. In order to be competitive, the consultants concluded, communities in the region must work together cooperatively to:

1. Provide local policy-makers with the economic development tools they need to be well informed decision-makers;
2. Enhance the computer and information technology skills base of the workforce;
3. Develop a more strategic approach to business recruitment;
4. Develop a more coordinated entrepreneurial/small business support system;
5. Identify appropriate market niches for the various central business districts of the region;
6. Consider reorganizing existing economic development entities into a broad-based Capital Region Economic Development Corporation.

This study, which has been endorsed by the Augusta City Council, was made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Administration as a result of the economic dislocation caused by state government down-sizing and loss of Statler Tissue/Tree Free employment in the mid-1990s. However, prospects for Tree Free became somewhat more promising during 1998 with the purchase of the company at auction by one of its major creditors, Thermo Fibertek of Waltham, Massachusetts.

As the year drew to a close, Augusta’s Office of Economic and Community Development saw several significant changes. Development Director, Jean R. Belair, Jr., left to become full-time Executive Director of the Augusta Board of Trade, which relocated its offices from City Center to Kennebec Savings Bank. Associate Developer, Wanda Plumer, was appointed Interim Development Director until such time as the City Council determines the best way to permanently organize its economic development program. At the same time, the community development function was once again relocated to the second floor Office of Economic and Community Development, and Andrew Gilmore was appointed Community Development Administrator. As this was occurring, the new Augusta Development Commission, created by order of the Council in the autumn after months of discussion, was poised to provide advice and assistance to Augusta’s policy-makers on the City’s best course towards lasting prosperity in the 21st Century.

— Wanda Plumer
Interim Director

Assessor's Report

During the 1998 calendar year, 582 deeds and 825 mortgages were processed by this office. The majority of the sales were single-family homes with an average sale price of \$69,400; there were 173 residential sales and 36 commercial sales during 1998. Based on the current ratio study for residential property, the average assessment ratio is 104% of market value.

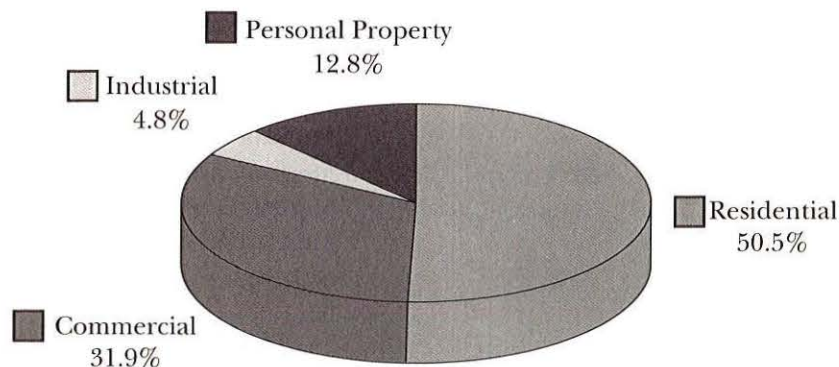
The Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption was adopted by the Maine State Legislature for 1998 as a means of property tax relief for resident homeowners who have owned a home in Maine for a minimum of 12 months. This office processed 4,400 applications for this program. The actual number of homestead exemptions granted were 4,493. The exemption amount is \$7,000 which is deducted from the assessed value of the property.

For 1998, there was an overall **increase** in taxable valuation of \$8,288,900 as compared to the previous year's **decrease** of \$2,129,400. A summary of valuation changes by category for the year is as follows:

<u>Increases</u>		<u>Decreases</u>	
Commercial Property	\$ 4,629,500	Commercial Property	\$ 3,646,500
Residential Remodeling	818,600	Residentials	2,444,100
New Single-Family Homes	973,000	Demolitions/Fires	761,400
New Mobile Homes	766,200	Taxable to Exempt	1,322,700
Misc. Increases	1,151,100	Misc. Decreases	969,700
Personal Property	16,359,900	Personal Property	7,265,000
Total Increases	\$24,698,300	Total Decreases	\$16,409,400

— Donald Cadwell
Assessor

Taxpayer by Category in Augusta 1998-99 Fiscal Year



City Clerk's Report

1998 Statistics

Vital Statistics

Annulment	1	1-Day Exchanges – Fish/Combo	6
Births Recorded	609 *	3-Day Exchanges – Fish/Combo	2
Deaths Recorded	522 **	Address Transfer – Victualer's	1
Delayed Birth	0	Automobile Graveyard Permit	1
Depositions	53	Beano Permits	5
Fetal Deaths	2	Billiard Rooms	6
Marriages	228	Bottle Club License	1
Dog Licenses:		Bowling Alley	1
Males/Females	310	Burial Permits	560
Sp. Females/N. Males	1,145	Carnival License	1
Kennels	3	Coin-operated Amusement Dev. Lic.	23
Replacement Licenses	24	Dancing Licenses	22
		Food Seller's Permits	6
		Games of Chance – Blanket Letters	11
		Games of Chance – Single	1
		Junkyard Permits	3
		Liquor License Amendments (Deck)	1
		Liquor on Premise – Transfer	1
		Lunchmobile Licenses	5
		Malt Liquor Licenses	36
		Mass Outdoor Gathering	1
		Name Transfer – Victualer's	1
		Off-Premise Catering	9
		Pawnbroker's Licenses	1
		Roller Skating Rink License	1
		Special Amusement Permits	19
		Spirit. & Vinous Liquor Licenses	27
		Taxi Driver's Licenses	39
		Taxi Operator's Licenses	6
		Transient Seller	1
		Victualer's Licenses	138
		Vinous Liquor Licenses	4

Miscellaneous Permits/Licenses

Archery Licenses	102		
Archery/Expanded Season	24		
Archery/Fish Combo	9		
Atlantic Salmon Licenses	3		
Bear Permits	44		
Duck Stamps	96		
Duplicate Licenses	34		
Muzzleloading	79		
Pheasant Stamps	0		
Res. Combo Licenses	700		
Res. Fish Licenses	1,075		
Res. Hunt Licenses	622		
Res. Jr. Hunt Licenses	123		
Res. Small Game Licenses	7		
Special Supersport Certificates	7		
Supersport Licenses	9		

* Augusta Residents – 196

Augusta Residents born out of town – 28

** Augusta Residents – 240

Augusta Residents died out of town – 25

Voter Registration
Report of Registered Voters – November 3, 1998

Ward	District	Democrat	Republican	Unenrolled	Independent	Reform	Totals
1	95	352	412	261	0	9	1,034
1	96	726	606	526	6	18	1,882
2	94	38	27	15	0	0	80
2	95	191	104	143	0	6	444
2	96	953	802	823	5	24	2,607
3	95	1,385	867	922	3	63	3,240
4	94	1,054	1,000	923	4	37	3,018
4	96	138	112	78	0	7	335
Totals		4,837	3,930	3,691	18	164	12,640

Voter Registration
Report of Registered Voters – November 14, 1997

Ward	District	Democrat	Republican	Unenrolled	Independent	Reform	Green	Totals
1	95	390	490	338	9	3	3	1,244
1	96	881	745	679	17	8	8	2,347
2	94	46	30	18	0	0	0	94
2	95	244	134	208	3	8	7	604
2	96	1,128	993	1,000	25	8	25	3,179
3	95	1,634	1,013	1,203	25	2	83	3,960
4	94	1,180	1,121	1,086	26	8	40	3,461
4	96	154	142	102	0	1	7	406
Totals		5,657	4,668	4,634	105	38	193	15,295

— Cherie Frith
City Clerk

Police Department



Message from the Chief: As our State Capital, we continue to be fortunate that we are not faced with the levels of crime that other state capitals or cities are experiencing across the country. Although we have experienced an increase in the presence of heroin in the City, our citizens are continuing to take an active roll in assisting the police to address this as well as all crime. Augusta has had a 14% reduction in serious crime from the previous year. We refuse to let our streets, neighborhoods, our way of life, and the city as a whole be taken away from us. Augusta continues to be a fine place to live and bring up our families. I am proud to be a part of our City as both a family man and as your Police Chief.

During 1998, the Police Department experienced changes in personnel and assignments. Lt. Dennis Latendresse retired after serving twenty years with the department. Promotions were Lieutenant Robert Gregoire and Sergeant John Lozinski. Two Patrolmen, Greg Stevens and Armand Choate left the department to continue their law enforcement careers with the State Police and Department of Motor Vehicles respectively. Other police personnel left the department to pursue other employment opportunities. Additionally, seven new patrol officers were hired to continue the department at full compliment. Patrol Officers Jared Mills, Glenn Charest, Roberta Ogborn, Matthew Clark, Michael Emmons, Jason Cote and Frank Hatch joined the department to serve our community.

Crime Prevention Officer Ron Henderson, with the assistance of department employees, continued to provide crime prevention programs of all nature throughout the community as well as our Citizens Police Academy. Police sponsored educational programs to our children in our schools and the community are a priority with the department.

Training of department personnel continues to be a priority within the Police Department. As the only department accessible to the public twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year, we are committed to provide the best possible assistance to our citizens and the public at large.

The Police Department received two grants in 1998. Once again the department received a grant of \$20,000 from the State Bureau of Highway Safety for O.U.I. enforcement, which funded numerous O.U.I. roadblocks and special O.U.I. patrols. The department received a grant of \$33,059 from the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance that will be used to purchase special equipment intended to impact criminal activity and violations of law in the City.

The following figures show a comparison of crimes reported for national statistics, by number.

Crimes	1998	1997
Homicide	2	0
Rape	4	8
Robbery	9	7
Aggravated Assaults	16	6
Burglary	198	203
Theft	851	1,056
Auto Theft	31	39
Arson	26	2
Totals	1,137	1,321

Of the above crimes reported, the Police Department cleared 43% for 1997, compared to 48% for 1997.

The Police Department response time for handling 75% of your requests for service was four minutes or less. We do so with safety ever on our minds and with the intent to provide you with the best possible service.

The following are excerpts from various letters of appreciation citing compassion, sensitivity and professionalism shown by employees of the Augusta Police Department.

Dear Chief McCamish:

"I know that our safety was the direct result of a coordinated effort by a team of experienced and knowledgeable law enforcement professionals. It is a very frightening situation to have your safety and that of your family threatened."

"We are all very grateful for the fact that there was no violent incident. At the same time, we are quite mindful of the fact that, had there been an instance of actual violence, perhaps armed, the officers of your department were literally interposed between that harm and the employees."

"Thank you again for responding so promptly and effectively to my mother's emergency call."

"They were both very professional, courteous and extremely helpful. I must also commend you Mr. McCamish for your leadership, and the excellent training you must give your officers, because they truly are professional in every sense of the word."

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to the citizens who continued to support the activities of the Police Department throughout the past year. I especially thank all the other city departments that have cooperated and provided support to the Police Department that assist in enabling us to deliver quality service to our community.

— Wayne McCamish
Chief of Police

Audit Reports

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Budget and Actual - Budgetary Basis

General Fund

Year ended June 30, 1998

	Budget	Actual	Variance favorable (unfavorable)
Revenues:			
Taxes	\$ 22,664,759	22,664,914	155
Licenses and permits	133,570	139,650	6,080
Intergovernmental	9,318,261	10,357,846	1,039,585
Tuition and other charges for services-education	1,467,000	1,502,668	35,668
Charges for services-City	144,700	140,593	(4,107)
Fees and fines	19,250	17,954	(1,296)
Unclassified	487,772	593,347	105,575
Investment earnings	418,827	514,797	95,970
Operating transfer	477,000	477,000	-
Budgeted use of surplus	596,000	-	(596,000)
Total Revenues	35,727,139	34,408,769	681,630
Expenditures:			
Current:			
General government	1,155,026	1,154,125	901
Finance and administration	604,885	567,169	37,716
City services	2,969,679	3,525,582	(555,903)
Community services	1,627,057	1,752,270	(125,213)
Public safety	4,378,588	4,383,198	(4,610)
Education	19,292,860	19,023,866	268,994
Insurance and fringe benefits	700,240	579,412	120,828
Other fixed charges	1,881,000	1,740,233	140,767
Unclassified	1,637,583	1,069,013	568,570
Capital improvements	253,000	331,787	(78,787)
Debt service (excluding education)	1,227,221	1,223,905	3,316
Total expenditures	35,727,139	35,350,560	376,579
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	\$ -	1,058,209	1,058,209

NOTE: Copies of the entire financial report are available for review in the City Manager's Office.

Audit Reports

Combined Balance Sheet

All Fund Types and Account Groups

June 30, 1998 (with comparative totals for June 30, 1997)

	Government Fund Types		
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects
ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 1,328,370	140,992	-
Investments	8,308,585	212,285	-
Receivables:			
Taxes receivable	1,005,694	-	-
Tax liens	267,661	-	-
Accounts receivable, net of allowance	32,488	41,482	4,530
Due from other governments	1,179,427	175,423	-
Notes receivable	-	662,021	-
Accrued interest receivable	5,053	-	-
Interfund loans receivable	482,355	310,054	1,064,259
Prepaid expenses	254,818	-	-
Inventories	2,816	44,067	-
Fixed assets (net, where applicable, of accumulated depreciation)	-	-	-
Amount to be provided for retirement of general long-term debt	-	-	-
Amount to be provided for accrued compensated absences	-	-	-
Amount to be provided for retirement of capital leases	-	-	-
Total assets	\$ 12,867,267	1,586,324	1,068,789
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	1,083,574	133,688	19,754
Accrued wages and benefits payable	1,704,214	106,838	49
Accrued compensated absences	734,881	-	-
Escrow payable	1,800	-	-
Refundable deposits	-	-	-
Accrued liability for landfill closure and postclosure costs	-	-	-
Deferred revenue	990,000	-	-
Taxes received in advance	26,807	-	-
Interfund loans payable	3,344,081	187,919	-
Other liabilities	11,783	-	-
Due to student groups	-	-	-
Deferred compensation benefits payable	-	-	-
Bonds and notes payable	-	-	-
Capital leases payable	-	-	-
Total liabilities	7,897,140	428,445	19,803
Fund equity:			
Contributed capital	-	-	-
Investment in general fixed assets	-	-	-
Retained earnings:			
Unreserved	-	-	-
Fund balances:			
Reserved for noncurrent receivables	-	662,021	-
Reserved for endowments	-	-	-
Reserved for inventory	-	44,067	-
Reserved for encumbrances	340,869	13,147	-
Reserved for noncurrent interfund advance	50,000	-	-
Unreserved:			
Designated	1,063,513	-	-
Undesignated-School	440,081	303,635	-
Undesignated-City	3,075,664	135,009	1,048,986
Total fund equity	4,970,127	1,157,879	1,048,986
Total liabilities and fund equity	\$ 12,867,267	1,586,324	1,068,789

NOTE: Copies of the entire financial report are available for review in the City Manager's Office.

Audit Reports

Combined Balance Sheet All Fund Types and Account Groups

Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Funds Trust and Agency	Account Groups		Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Enterprise	Internal service		General Long-term Debt	General Fixed Assets	1998	1997
95,826	-	546,029	-	-	2,111,217	2,918,552
340,211	-	261,799	-	-	9,122,880	6,840,530
-	-	-	-	-	1,005,694	1,326,184
-	-	-	-	-	267,661	380,120
332,879	2,833	-	-	-	414,212	490,782
-	-	-	-	-	1,354,850	936,176
12,138	-	-	-	-	674,159	796,976
-	-	2,391	-	-	5,053	47,664
1,742,650	300,713	-	-	-	3,902,422	3,075,926
21,678	-	-	-	-	276,496	351,340
14,070	154,674	-	-	-	215,627	61,718
2,101,015	812,255	-	-	39,979,347	42,892,617	41,953,618
-	-	-	10,793,191	-	10,793,191	10,745,597
-	-	-	1,062,891	-	1,062,891	1,052,712
-	-	-	682,330	-	682,330	765,776
\$ 4,660,467	1,270,475	810,219	12,538,412	39,979,347	74,781,300	71,743,671
89,846	10,205	-	-	-	1,337,067	1,096,232
31,514	5,718	-	-	-	1,848,333	1,801,615
130,096	38,174	-	1,062,891	-	1,966,042	1,981,346
-	-	-	-	-	1,800	5,085
42,509	-	-	-	-	42,509	20,159
2,554,285	-	-	-	-	2,554,285	1,834,400
13,000	-	-	-	-	1,003,000	1,088,775
-	-	-	-	-	26,807	15,040
370,422	-	-	-	-	3,902,422	3,075,926
-	-	-	-	-	11,783	14,583
-	-	138,221	-	-	138,221	162,993
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
590,000	-	-	10,793,191	-	11,383,191	11,935,597
315,507	185,461	-	682,330	-	1,183,298	1,124,012
4,137,179	239,558	138,221	12,538,412	-	25,398,758	24,155,763
72,653	38,934	-	-	-	111,587	39,224
-	-	-	-	39,979,347	39,979,347	39,049,529
450,635	991,983	-	-	-	1,442,618	1,773,231
-	-	-	-	-	662,021	777,136
-	-	568,646	-	-	568,646	553,869
-	-	-	-	-	44,067	39,972
-	-	-	-	-	354,016	251,855
-	-	-	-	-	50,000	105,000
-	-	-	-	-	1,063,513	941,615
-	-	103,352	-	-	847,068	620,436
-	-	-	-	-	4,259,659	3,436,041
523,288	1,030,917	671,998	-	39,979,347	49,382,542	47,587,908
\$ 4,660,467	1,270,475	810,219	12,538,412	39,979,347	74,781,300	71,743,671

NOTE: Copies of the entire financial report are available for review in the City Manager's Office.

Fire and Rescue Department

The Augusta Fire Department is proud to present its annual report of activities and responses.

Over the past year, the Fire Department responded to 845 requests for fire suppression services while the ambulance service responded to 4,552 calls for assistance on an emergency and non-emergency basis. Overall, the requests for fire and EMS services increased by 58% from the previous year.

Some of the other activities your Fire Department has been involved with are:

Fire safety programs for senior citizens—We recognized that our more mature residents are being exposed to new things that greatly enhance our lives but can be dangerous as well. Things such as microwave ovens. Many seniors, not familiar with the machines, have been burned because they did not see the appliance heating the food in the same way a stove cooks food. Many other types of topics are stressed and the response has been tremendous.

Vial of Life Program—The Firefighters Union (Local 1650 IAFF), in conjunction with local vendors, created and distributed over 3,500 Vials of Life to our citizens. This program greatly assists emergency workers called to a medical emergency by providing important information such as next of kin, medications taken and any allergies the patient may have.

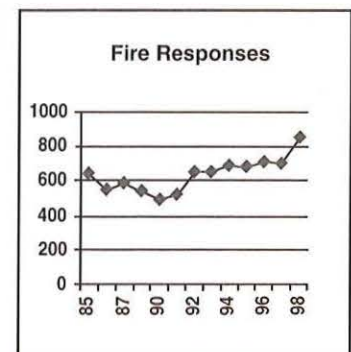
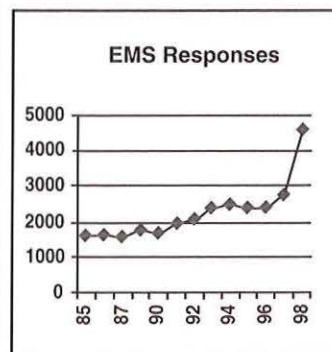
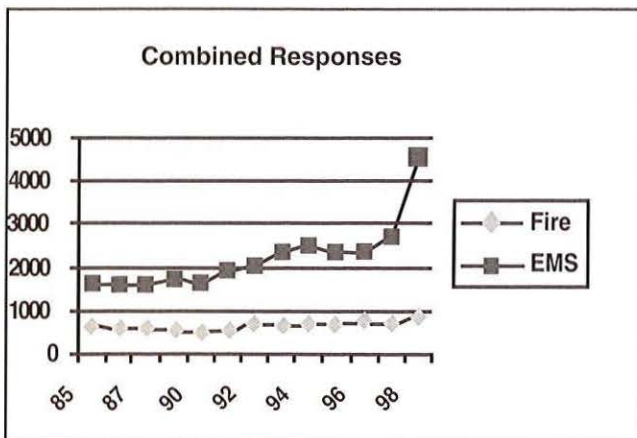
The Great Escape—This past fire prevention season the department, in conjunction with the School Department and our local parochial schools, conducted the National Fire Protection Association "Great Escape" program in which over 250 students participated and submitted entries in the nationwide contest. The program stressed the creation and practicing of fire drills in the home and having two ways out. Following review and judging of all the entries, the City of Augusta entry for the national competition was submitted by Matthew Bonsant from St. Augustine School.

These are just a few of the activities we have been involved in. Over the next year, we plan to increase our participation in additional community based programs and activities and fulfill your requests for safety related information and training.

Over the past year, two senior officers retired. Platoon Chief Daniel Caouette and Lieutenant Eugene Howard retired following 25 and 26 years of service respectively. Both men contributed greatly to the department and we wish them well in their retirement.

In closing, I would like to thank the community for their continued support and look forward to a safe and productive 1999.

— Lawrence Bradley
Fire Chief



Augusta Civic Center



David Jowdry

On behalf of the staff of the Augusta Civic Center, I am pleased to submit our 1997-98 Annual Report.

Our twenty-fourth year of operation has been a very productive one. For the fourth year in a row the Civic Center was able to produce a positive balance sheet. This year the building showed an increase of \$200,000 in the fund balance. Only about 3% of similarly operated and maintained buildings throughout the country show a profit at the end of the year.

Revenues for this year were \$1,973,075, an increase of \$41,609 or 2.2% over FY97. Operating expenses were \$1,772,476, a decrease of \$60,336, or 3.3%. Some of the reductions in expenses were realized due to savings in the area of electricity and propane used for heating and cooling.

The facility was very busy this past year, with a total room usage of 2,860 rooms rented. The Main Auditorium hosted a total of 218 days of activities, an increase of 3.3% over last year. In the main building, there was a total of 1,527 rooms rented, an increase of 2.6%. In the North Wing, there was 1,115 rooms rented during the year, an increase of 1.2%. As you can see, the use of the building increased over the past year, a product of an improved economy. At the start of the busiest portion of the year, we had the ice storm to contend with. The first weekend of the storm, the North Wing was being used as a shelter for 300 people and a major trade show was going on in the main auditorium and several meeting rooms were being used in the main building.

Even though activity in the Main Auditorium increased, the number of major touring shows decreased. This was caused by a number of factors. First and foremost, there are fewer groups touring than in the past, and many of the dates requested were already contracted. This past year touring groups included Credence Clearwater Revisited, Marine Corp Band, Lawrence Welk Band, Blackhawk & Little Texas, The Boston Pops, Nutcracker on Ice, the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions, Shrine Circus and the Air Force Band. Trade shows continued to be a major activity of the Main Auditorium, with a total of 26 shows.

There were a number of positive decisions that were made this past year that helped position us to increase future business:

The Kennebec and Penobscot rooms were converted from two small auditoriums to a large meeting room. The conversion was done for two reasons: first the rooms were not handicapped accessible and, in their original configuration, were seldom rented. The first two months after conversion, rooms were rented more than all of the previous year.

Over this past year we have completed a total upgrade of the lighting throughout the building and the energy management system through an agreement with Honeywell. The total cost of the project was over \$400,000 repaid over the next ten years with the savings from energy cost (guaranteed).

The position of front office receptionist was refilled, after being staffed by part timers for the past five years. We found after training a person for several weeks they would leave for full-time employment elsewhere. The advertising, interviewing and training took longer than the person would stay.

The electrical boxes in the southend parking lot were moved from in front of the airlock entrance to the perimeter of the lot. This allows for additional room to turn large vehicles around that are using the airlock.

We painted and replaced the carpet in the first floor of the North Wing, which had not been done since the Wing was built in 1981. We also painted and replaced the carpets in the Washington, York,

Waldo, Somerset, Piscataquis and Sagadahoc Rooms. All rooms in the building have now been refurbished.

We secured the sponsorship of a college-size portable basketball floor. This will now allows us to actively pursue college and professional games.

Through a long-term rental agreement with the Shriners, the building acquired an automated external defibrillator unit, which, I believe, makes us the first public facility in the state to have such a unit.

All event staff and key staff members have been trained in CPR, First Aid, Blood Born Pathogen and use of the AED.

We have made a number of adjustments over the past year to position us for the future. We continue to search for new revenue sources and look to capitalize on the continued growth in the North Augusta area of the community. The Civic Center, along with the local business community, must put a Convention and Visitors Bureau in place as soon as possible.

The present financial future of the Civic Center looks good. However, the depletion of the Civic Center reserves in the past has caused essential projects to be deferred. Projects such as phases two and three of the sprinklers system, air-conditioning in the main auditorium, replacement of the telescopic bleachers, enlargement of the kitchen area, and additional storage space. I must reiterate what the past director said in 1993. As the building enters its 25th year, we can expect major mechanical breakdowns and visible wear-and-tear on original equipment. I think over the next year we will have to address the question of whether it is important to continue to provide the same quality of service or should we drop our standards a bit and allow the building to provide a lesser quality but functional state.

The 1998-99 fiscal year appears to look as prosperous as the past four years. We have booked several major functions in the main auditorium annually through the year 2001. Meeting room activity continues to increase. We did, however, lose three major functions; one in 1998, one for 1999 and 2000 because of problems with hotel rooms.

Enclosed you will find a detailed report for the year. We look forward to continued support from you, the City Council and the other departments of the City. I would especially like to thank the members of the Civic Center staff that assisted in the preparation of this report.

— R. David Jowdry
Director



AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER

Engineering Bureau

The Engineering Bureau provides professional/technical services to the City concerning the physical aspects of the City such as buildings, streets, and drainage. Presently, the Bureau consists of a City Engineer, a Civil Engineer, an Administrative Coordinator, and a Clerk that is shared between the three bureaus.

Much has been accomplished during fiscal year 1998. The Engineering Bureau was responsible for the design and management of several City projects. Engineering plays a large role in the evaluation and approval of other private projects, such as residential and commercial developments, which are being designed and built throughout the City. Some of the major City projects which took place over the last year are:

Design and Construction Management Projects

- Williams Playground — Phase I
- Meadow Road Reconstruction
- Mt. Vernon Avenue Basketball Court
- Bangor Street Coordination/Lighting

Future Project Planning

- Kennebec River Bicycle Trail
Design Phase
- Geographic Information System Pilot
- Civic Center Auditorium Air
Conditioning

Along with these projects throughout the City, the Engineering Bureau also provided technical assistance and public support in the following areas:

Technical Assistance/Public Support

- Computerized Mapping
- Assignment of Street Numbers
- Review of Commercial Site Plans
Driveway Location, Curb Cut
- Review, Address and Assist Resolution of
Citizen Complaints Regarding City
Infrastructure
- Tax Map Information
- Review of Subdivision Plans
- Coordination with Local Utilities for Projects

Maintain Records of City Public Buildings and Streets

- Topographic Information
- Right-of-Way Locations
- 1939 WPA Maps
- Street Descriptions
- Horizontal and Vertical Datum

— Lionel Cayer, P.E.
City Engineer

City Planning

The following report summarizes the activities of the Planning Board and the Planning Bureau during 1998:

Membership Staff:

By ordinance, the membership of the Planning Board is set at nine full members (with no associate or alternate members). During 1998, there were two resignations and three new appointments by the Mayor, bringing the Board up to a full level of nine members. The membership of the board during the past two years (as of December) was as follows:

December, 1997

Thomas Radsky, Chair
David Smith, Vice Chair
Ron Dutil
Vaughan Stevens, III
Patricia Zabrocki
Cathy Morris
Paul Harris
Robert Corey
1 Vacancy/Secretary

December, 1998

David Smith, Chair
Ron Dutil, Vice Chair
Vaughan Stevens, III
Cathy Morris
Paul Harris
Robert Corey
Richard Duncan
Gautrey Musk
Gregory Scott

Bruce Keller was hired in May to fill the position of City Planner, allowing Interim Planner Chris Huck to return back to his responsibilities at the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments. We are very grateful for Mr. Huck's help and guidance! Superb clerical support for the Board was again provided by Madeleine Daniels, Anita Whitehouse, and Ruth Tondreau within the Department of City Services.

Board Meetings

The Planning Board held twelve (12) regular meetings in 1998, reviewing forty-one (41) applications. Two (2) workshop meetings were also held to begin reviewing the sign ordinance and the 1988 Growth Management Plan, and work will continue on these projects into 1999. The applications decided by the Board in 1997 and 1998 are summarized in the table below:

Planning Board Applications	1997	1998
Conditional Use (new/expanded/amended)	16	29
Rezoning (zoning map changes)	4	2
Land Use Ordinance Text Amendments	2	2
New Subdivisions (final)	2	2
Subdivisions (amended)	2	2
Major Developments (new/amended)	3	4

Recommendations Regarding Rezonings and Ordinance Amendments

1. Generally Rezone portion of Rural Ponds (RPDS) zoning district near Thomaston Road to Rural Village (RV). Recommended in favor.
2. Generally Rezone parcel shown as Lot 217 on Tax Map 43 from Medium Density Residential (RB1) to Local Business (CB). Recommended against.
3. Amend the ordinance to allow as a conditional use "self-storage units not exceeding 32 units or 3,000 square feet of building area." Recommended in favor.
4. Amend the ordinance to allow as a conditional use cemeteries in the Rural River (RR) district. Recommended in favor.

— Bruce Keller
City Planner

Solid Waste

In 1998, 28,531 tons of rubbish were landfilled in Expansion II, 3,635 tons of materials were recycled and 859 tons of materials were either leaves for composting or wood waste to be chipped for mulch. This marks a 13% increase in the total amount of material received at Hatch Hill when compared to 1997. The following table highlights the percentage increased by category:

Material	1997	1998	Percent Increase
Rubbish	26,369 tons	28,531 tons	8%
Recyclables	2,518 tons	3,635 tons	46%
Compost & Wood Chips	398 tons	859 tons*	116%

*This increase is largely due to the extensive tree damage from the ice storm that was chipped into mulch.

At a time when recycling rates are typically falling, the City of Augusta and the Hatch Hill region continue with a strong commitment to recycling, reuse, and composting. This program saves valuable landfill space and conserves natural resources. The support of the recycling program is evident by the continued high participation rate of our citizens, the region and commercial establishments to recycling. The State Planning Office calculated our regional recycling rate at 46.8% for the year 1997, 6.3 percentage points higher than 1996! This exceeds the State's goal of 35% and meets their "reasonable progress" requirements.

EXPANSION II

We moved into Cell 3 in July of this year, the last cell of this three-cell landfill. It has a capacity of approximately 189,000 cubic yards of solid waste, and is expected to reach capacity in the year 2000.

Closure Funding

We are required to set funds aside each year while the landfill is operating to assure that there are sufficient monies to pay for closure of this site once it reaches capacity. The closure cap will consist of clay and a plastic liner design that is approved by the MDEP. It is estimated that this closure fund needs a total of \$3,385,000 to close the landfill and provide environmental monitoring for thirty years after closure. To date we have \$2,114,711 in a reserve account earmarked for this closure project and anticipate funding the remaining amount over the next two fiscal years. Construction of the closure cap is expected to occur during the 2001 construction season.

EXPANSION III

Landfill Design

The landfill expansion project moved from the feasibility stage to the design phase this year. The first six (6) months of 1998 were spent preparing an application that was submitted to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) in June. They are reviewing the information that has been submitted and are working with us to respond to any questions or issues that arise from this process. We anticipate receiving a permit for construction of the 18-acre landfill expansion early in the year 2000!

Wetlands

Part of this expansion project will include some wetland improvement somewhere within the City to replace the wetlands that will be removed at Hatch Hill. The wetland compensation opportunities that are currently being explored include improvements or enhancements to existing wetlands and preservation of a wetland area through a deed restriction.

Sewer Line

The extension of the Augusta Sanitary District sewer line is also being considered as part of this landfill project. Currently, leachate is transported by tank trucks to either the Leachate Transfer Station on Cony Street Extension or the Augusta Sanitary District's Treatment Plant. We generate an average of 5,680,735 gallons of leachate per year. The sewer line extension will allow the majority of the leachate generated by the landfill operation to be discharged directly into a sewer line.

Funding

In order to pay for this project, there was a bond referendum question on the November 1998 ballot for the expenditure of up to \$9.7 million dollars to construct this new landfill and associated infrastructure. The bond question received the overwhelming support of the Augusta citizens, who approved it with 4,657 "yes" votes and 1,229 "no" votes.

We are currently in the process of preparing the necessary paperwork so the bond can be issued in the spring of 2000. This will allow funds to be available for the construction of Expansion III, which is scheduled to start in May 2000. This new landfill expansion is designed to provide the City and the region with approximately twenty (20) years of solid waste disposal capacity.

— Lesley Jones
Director

Public Works

This was another busy and productive year for Public Works.

Winter of 1997-1998

The winter started early with the first snowstorm on November 14th giving us 7". By December 31st, we had received a total of 33", which is normal for the end of the calendar year.

January of 1998 took the "normal" out of the winter. On January 5, sleet and freezing rain started in the late afternoon. Light steady freezing drizzle continued for the next four days. On Wednesday night, January 7, the city was in trouble: trees and limbs were starting to come down bringing electrical lines with them. By Thursday morning, most of the streets and roads in the city were closed due to ice, downed wires and trees. The storm finally ended Friday night, leaving the entire city with a 2-1/2" covering of ice. Almost everywhere was without power, including the City's Garage.

Public Works crews worked around the clock for the next five days trying to keep the roads passable. Graders were continuously cutting ice on the main arterials while trucks were sanding non-stop to try and keep the roads that were open, somewhat passable. Wood cutting crews opened areas that were closed. At week's end, several employees had logged 100+ hours. We used 4,000 cubic yards of sand during this storm alone.

On January 23, we were faced with another ice storm that went through the weekend. The magnitude of this one was nowhere like the first; however, another 1,100 cubic yards of sand was used on the city streets. The sand pile at Public Works was getting precariously low, forcing us to purchase 5,000 yards under emergency conditions to replenish the pile.

The remainder of the winter season was normal. Some statistics for the winter of 97/98 are:

12,975 cubic yards of sand/salt mixture were used

Full plowing operation 9 times

Snow was hauled a total of 30 nights.

The 1997-1998 winter proved to be a little below average for snowfall with no large snowstorms, and above average for sand/salt use. The biggest storm of the season was on December 1, 1997, which brought 8" of snow.

Spring 1998

Spring Sweeping

This is an annual event that is done on an eight-week schedule and covers all city streets. The sweeping schedule began on April 6 and was completed on June 1. This schedule is rotated each year.

Winter Plow Damage

This consists of repairs of lawns, stairs, fences, and various damages that occur from the winter operations.

Spring Clean-Up

The weeks of May 4, 11, and 18 were the City's Annual Spring Clean-Up Weeks. The fee remained steady at \$20.00 per week for anyone wishing to participate. We sold 204 stickers to 140 participating households. A total of 44.54 tons of material were picked up.

Spring Leaf Pick-Up

A Service-For-A-Fee Spring Leaf Pick-up was offered for a third year. The fee was \$5.00 for up to 10 bags of leaves. We sold 215 stickers to 124 different households. This represented 1,847 bags of leaves, which equalled 36.40 tons of leaves. These leaves are composted with the fall leaves and offered to citizens free of charge.

Street Striping

L & D Safety Marking Corp. was awarded the striping bid on May 4. They began striping on May 12 and on May 14, all striping of centerline, edgelines and white skips was completed. They then continued with the hand painting of the 250+ crosswalks and 500+ arrows, and most of these were finished by June 2.

Ice Storm Brush Removal

This spring, the city offered a special Ice Storm brush pickup for the residents. A contract was awarded to Gerard Poulin and Sons of Readfield to accomplish this task. This monumental task began on April 21 and was completed on May 14. A total of 142 box trailers were filled with 16,323 cubic yards of wood chips. The Bureaus of

Public Works and Solid Waste oversaw this project. The majority of the cost of this project was funded by Federal & State Emergency Management Agencies.

Summer

The summer of 1998 was another productive year for street paving, construction, and maintenance.

Bond Issue Paving

In 1998, we started to see the expenditure of paving dollars from a bond issue approved by the voters in November of 1997. The following is a list of streets and roads that were paved:

Alton Road	Savoie Street	Cushnoc Drive	Lajoie Street
Bedford Street	Smith Street	First Avenue	Lambert Avenue
Berwick Road	Town & Country Road	Lambard Road	Ridgewood Drive
Dayton Street	Wade Street	Norway Circle	Stanley Street
Grove Street	Caldwell Road	Second Avenue	*Eight Rod Road (portion)
Hemlock Terrace	Court Street	Sixth Avenue	*Middle Road (portion)
Lincoln Street (east)	Cushnoc Circle	Churchill By-pass	

*denotes reclamation of the roadbase in addition to paving.

Additional Paving From Operating Budget

Sidewalks

New sidewalks were also paved or reconstructed on:

Malta Street	Lincoln Street	Smith Street	Colony Road
Bridge Street	Oak Street	Norway Circle	

Roads

Additional streets that were paved from the annual operating budget were:

Bridge Street	Western Avenue	Penley Street	Madison Avenue
Johnson Street	Fuller Road	Purinton Avenue (section of)	

Reconstruction

Reconstruction projects were completed on Meadow Road, a section of Tobey Street, and George Street.

Fall

Once again the fall season was extremely busy. Paving went into mid November, with all projects finished or closed up for the winter season.

Fall Leaf Collection

The six-week Fall Leaf Collection was down this year from years past. We had 97.55 tons of leaves picked up at curbside this year, which is down from the 150+ tons that are usually picked up in the fall. This decrease is probably related to the Ice Storm and all the tree damage that was cleaned up in the spring.

As usual the city street sweepers worked steady during October and November to keep streets clean from the fall foliage drop.

Salt/Sand Mixing

A total of 12,000 cubic yards of sand/salt was mixed for winter. By November 1, all of the plows and sanding equipment were ready for the winter season.

Nineteen ninety-eight was a busy and productive year and I am sure 1999 will bring the same.

— John H. Charest
Director

Code Enforcement Bureau

City Code personnel are licensed LPI's Master Level Building Officials and Certified Advanced Level Code Enforcement Officers with the State of Maine. The Bureau issues building permits, provides technical assistance, performs license inspections, processes variances/appeals, investigates complaints, maintains computerized building permits and plan databases, and acts as staff for both the Zoning Board and the BOCA Appeals Board.

The Board of Zoning Appeals and BOCA Building Code of Appeals are summarized as follows:

The Board of Zoning Appeals received four requests for variances, granting three and declining one. The Board denied one administrative appeal of the Code Enforcement Director's interpretation.

The BOCA Building Code Board of Appeals heard two requests for variances and granted both.

Building Permits Issued January 1, 1998 – December 31, 1998

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>\$ Value</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>\$ Value</u>
New Single Family/ Residences	15	\$ 935,624	Conversions	2	21,500
Duplexes	2	128,000	Pools	6	21,200
Mobile Homes	34	855,913	Home Occupations	22	—
Residential Additions and Alterations	100	745,564	Signs	73	169,597
Garages/Sheds/Barns	80	540,480	Phase I	2	1,150,000
New Commercial Structures	10	4,165,030	Phase II	3	—
Commercial Sheds/ Storage Buildings	5	44,620	School Additions And Alterations		12,432
Commercial Additions and Alterations	43	11,451,393	Foundations/Frost Walls/ Slabs	5	1,354,027
Parking Lots	9	769,000	Change of Use	2	40,000
Greenhouse	1	7,000	Amended Permits	4	370,365
Camper	1	2,500	Demolitions	24	—
Timber Harvest	2	—	Seasonal Camps	2	108,000
Fraternal Additions And Alterations	2	14,500	Communications Tower	1	19,700
Total Fees Collected \$63,799.59			Totals	453	\$22,926,445
			248 Plumbing Permits		\$7,369.25

— Richard Dolby
Director

Recreation Bureau

Nineteen ninety-eight was another busy year for Augusta Recreation. Although the ice storm briefly interrupted our schedule, winter was still a very active time. Over 40 youth and adult basketball teams played a number of games in our school gyms. Tournaments were also held for our youth teams with our travel teams being successful at home and away. Volleyball, kickball, soccer and other activities were also offered. Thanks to the great cooperation of the Augusta School Department we have tremendous access to our school facilities for recreation activities. We appreciate their cooperation.

Before and after school childcare continues to be a popular and necessary program. Over 80 children per week take advantage of this service, which is offered at three school sites. With the combination of rec camp in the summer, school age childcare is available 51 weeks per year. Daily activities, study time, excursions and healthy snacks are offered to the children as part of this program.

Senior citizen excursions and exercise classes continued to be popular. Over 30 trips are offered each year ranging from fall foliage tours, to Boston Harbor cruises, to ice skating exhibitions. A senior summer picnic was also offered on the grounds near Old Fort Western.

Summertime again proved to be a beautiful time of year, allowing us to offer a huge number of outdoor activities. Softball was popular with three large tournaments being hosted on our fields. A girls 18-under fast pitch National Qualifier tournament attracted teams from California, New Jersey and the other New England states. A men's state championship tournament was held for over 40 teams and a youth invitational tournament attracted 14 teams. Softball teams from Augusta won both divisions of this tournament—the Kennebec Classic. Businesses helped sponsor some of these tournaments as well as other youth leagues and special events. Their sponsorships help the Recreation Bureau keep the costs down for participants in each program they help sponsor. Cooperation with local sports associations and agencies also help to expand participation and offering by sharing facilities and volunteer staff time.

Summer playgrounds and day camps also saw high levels of participation. A new program for 12-14 year olds, Teen Camp, was offered successfully for the first time attracting 25 participants. The program combined recreational activities and community service projects. We received a third place award and monetary prize in the Fleet Bank Youth All-Star Competition. Our program was featured on the nightly news.

Swimming lessons were offered at two neighborhood pools for the first time, increasing accessibility and reducing transportation costs. Two four-week sessions were offered at the Calumet and McCalls playgrounds. Ninety children took advantage of these lessons. The summer youth track and field program state meet was once again held at Alumni Field, attracting several thousand athletes and spectators. Several state champions and a number of medal winners were from our Augusta Rec track team—The Capital Area Track Club.

Although winter was icy, the summer was steaming, prompting us to split our downtown concert series into two halves. The July concerts were offered in the early evening at the Waterfront Park while the August sessions remained at noontime. Along with the Farrington Festival series, 16 performances were offered through the summer.

The playgrounds and daycamps were well attended again. A variety of excursions to state parks, sporting events and amusement centers were offered. The summer nutrition program was again popular. Long-time director Joan Ouellette retired this year. Her years of dedicated service to the children of Augusta are greatly appreciated.

A number of sports clinics were conducted through the summer months including soccer, field hockey, basketball, track and field, golf, swimming, tennis, football, two soccer travel teams, three basketball leagues and a high school softball league. Adult Men's and Co-Rec softball leagues were offered as well.

Fall competitions included field hockey, soccer and three age groups of contact football. Adult softball continued to be popular with 22 fall league teams extending their season into October. Adult touch football was played at Capital Park.

A community skate park was completed in September through the many donations from area businesses, agencies and individuals. This project was spearheaded by Officer Ron Henderson of the Augusta Police Department whose efforts made it all possible. The skate park, used by skateboarders and rollerbladers, is located at the Gage Street Playground.

The City Center was again the location for the City Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Cony Madrigal Singers provided the holiday spirit by singing carols while Mayor John Bridge officially lit the tree.

—Peter Marczak
Superintendent of Recreation

—Karen Cox
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation/Childcare Director

Parks & Cemeteries

The Parks and Cemeteries Bureau maintained the City's 17 cemeteries covering 63 acres; 15 neighborhood parks, public grounds, green spaces and flowerbeds, comprising approximately 100 acres.

The Ice Storm of 1998 certainly changed the parks and cemeteries cleanup during 1998. Many months were spent making these areas safe. Forest Grove took the greatest hit. Follow-up repairs will be made during 1999 through federal grant monies to put our city parks and cemeteries in prime condition.

This year, for the first time, the Parks Bureau contracted new designs for the rotary flowerbeds and added a few more beds to improve the aesthetics of these areas. Perennials were added to make them more attractive, economical and diverse. Longfellows Greenhouses donated hundreds of annuals to the City for the first time, to enhance other areas with flowers. The City Parks crews planted and maintained all of these areas. They also maintained six playgrounds; City fields at the CARA complex; grounds and athletic fields at eight school sites, three swimming and two wading pools and one sprinkler pool at playgrounds; 11 tennis courts at three sites; seven basketball courts, two seasonal skating rinks (located on Northern Avenue and Bangor Street), Bicentennial Park, Savage Park, and the new skateboard park on Gage Street.

The City continued to maintain the community gardens on Cony Street Extension. This two-acre parcel was utilized this year by 24 residents.

Some 1998 Parks Projects were:

- Capital Park facility was improved by removing the wading pool, taking down the old fencing and removing the press box building.
- Savage Park received a new sign and planter, as well as a turnout for vehicles.
- New dugouts and fencing were constructed at Mt. Vernon Avenue ballfield.
- Playground equipment and benches at all City parks were refurbished and bleachers stained at Alumni Field.
- Preliminary site development was completed at Williams Playground, with installation of a drainage system and utilities and, with material reclaimed from the Bangor Street project, the grading and reseeding of the large open space area. These improvements are designed to accommodate future recreational facilities, service buildings and parking area.
- The Bicentennial Park Committee continued to research and plan the development of a swimming area at Three-Cornered Pond.
- Improvement to the entrance road at the Mt. Vernon playground to allow for two-way traffic.

Holiday decorations were put up by the City at the following locations: two trees at St. Augustine Church, six trees at each rotary, Lithgow Library, Front Street gazebo, Water Street, and City Center. Banners were put on poles at various gateways to the heart of the City.

During 1998, the City contracted with the State of Maine to maintain the Blaine Memorial Park, which abuts Forest Grove Cemetery. Complete restoration of this park, by the State, will be completed during 1999.

Some City 1998 Cemetery Projects were

- Installed new fence at Cottle's Cemetery on the Belgrade Road.
- Repaired numerous iron fences in the cemeteries and painted them.
- Cleared property for Riverside Cemetery expansion.
- Contracted the resetting of 65 stones at Mt. Hope Cemetery, which were vandalized.
- Temporarily improved some cemetery roadways.
- Initiated plans for new cemetery maps.
- Sold 56 cemetery lots.

The Cemetery Bureau was very busy this year with 94 burials.

Cemetery	Burials	Cemetery	Burials	Cemetery	Burials
Forest Grove	21	Kling	5	Coombs	2
Mt. Hope	48	Wall	4	Old St. Mary's	3
Mt. Pleasant	2	Bien Venue	4		
Riverside	4	Fuller Extension	1	Total Burials	94

— Anna D. Blodgett
Superintendent of Cemeteries

Lithgow Library

"...Augusta to-day, is celebrating her good fortune, and is about to lay the corner-stone of her new library building.... It's walls will be quarried from the strength of our own Maine hills, and within them will be gathered the best thought of all the ages. What poets have dreamed and historians chronicled, what philosophers have reasoned and scientists have discovered, all this and more will be treasured within this edifice, and then the doors shall be thrown wide open to every resident of this city, with the invitation to enter and partake freely of the feast prepared."

— Leslie Cornish, Lithgow Library Trustee, 1894

In its 103rd year of service to the Augusta community, the Lithgow Public Library:



Betsy Long

- * Circulated 128,000 books, periodicals and audiovisual materials, a slight decrease from last year due to closure for Ice Storm repairs.
- * Answered over 9,500 reference questions, 1/4 of them by telephone.
- * Provided 3,716 hours of connect time to members of the public accessing the Internet through the Maine School and Library Network.
- * Offered 283 Youth Services programs for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, children, teens and their parents, drawing 4,871 participants.
- * Increased the hours in the Youth Services Department to match regular library hours, with no increase in staff.
- * Instituted a bi-weekly Teen Night, where youth can gather to share poetry, songs and play games.
- * Conducted a highly successful Summer Reading Program for all ages which attracted almost 500 participants, the vast majority of them children.
- * Sponsored 44 adult events, including concerts, book discussion groups, the 3rd annual Maine Authors Reception, basic Internet training classes and lectures, attracting 686 participants; also provided 33 outreach programs to over 220 Augusta residents.
- * Closed for over two weeks in January to repair damage from the Ice Storm, but saved more than 3,500 books from water damage, thanks to the quick action of library staff and the Parks and Recreation crew.
- * Participated in the July 4th parade, winning an award for Most Original, for the depiction of pirates "Reading on the High Seas."



Lithgow Library participants in the 1998 July 4th Parade—"Reading on the High Seas."

- * Continued efforts to link all the Augusta public school libraries to our automated system, by first connecting Cony High School, and preparing for the six other sites to join the database in 1999.
- * Conducted focus groups for public input and prepared to hire an architect to produce a schematic design for an expanded library on the adjacent city-owned property.
- * Presented the 1998 Lithgow Award for Lifelong Learning to Thomas O'Connor, former City Councilor and library board member.

— Betsy Long
Director

Health and Welfare

The Bureau of Health and Welfare continues to provide general assistance services to people in the City of Augusta on a walk-in basis weekdays, Monday through Friday, at the Augusta City Center. We can be reached weekdays by phone at 626-2325. In case of life threatening emergencies that occur on weekends or after hours, we can be contacted through the Augusta Police Department.

General Assistance is a "safety-net" program administered in each municipality to provide eligible persons assistance with basic necessities such as housing costs, utilities, medications, food, clothing and personal items that are essential to maintain the household. Assistance is always furnished in the form of purchase orders/vouchers made payable to specific stores, landlords, etc. who will furnish the services needed.

Each municipality has general assistance regulations in the form of a local ordinance adopted by the municipal officers (City Council). The ordinance includes the maximum levels of assistance that will be furnished to eligible applicants. Augusta's ordinance and the state general assistance statutes are available for the public to read at all times at the Health and Welfare Offices.

The monthly levels of maximum assistance established for the City of Augusta for the period starting 10/1/98 and ending 9/30/99 are:

No. People/Per Month	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Maximum*	365	455	548	688	773
Food	125	230	329	419	497
Personal/Household	25	35	40	45	50
Housing/Per Month					
By Bedroom	0	1	2	3	4
All Utilities Included	332	414	498	625	703
Unheated	244	300	350	440	475
Heated	292	367	438	552	611
Lights/Cooking	23	26	34	41	49
Electric Hot Water	17	21	26	32	43

NOTE: Medications, clothing, etc. are not included above as they are evaluated on an individual basis.

The overall maximum* is a legislatively imposed "CAP" enacted in 1991 on a temporary basis. It limits the total amount of assistance that municipalities can provide to eligible people each month. It supersedes the municipalities' ability to ordinarily furnish the full range of assistance that the local ordinance indicates to be adequate and sufficient to maintain health and decency. A legislative bill (LD257) was filed in December of 1998, which proposes to increase the formula for computing the overall maximum.

**Local General Assistance Expenditures
As Reported to D.H.S.**

	FY 1997		FY 1998	
EXPENDITURES				
Housing, Energy, Fuel	\$68,846	76.7%	\$ 63,173	73.0%
Food, Clothing, Etc.	8,744	9.7%	10,396	12.0%
Medical, RX, Burials	12,178	13.6%	12,836	15.0%
GA Program Total	<u>\$89,768</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$ 86,405</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Ice Storm Food Vouchers			22,997	100.0%
			<u>\$109,402</u>	
FUNDING SOURCES				
State of Maine, DHS	\$44,884	50.0%	\$ 43,202	50.0%
SSI-IA Reimbursement	9,954	11.0%	14,913	17.2%
Recipient Repayments	190		1,203	1.5%
Net Cost to Augusta	34,740	39.0%	27,087	31.3%
GA Program Total	<u>\$89,768</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$ 86,405</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
State of ME-Ice Storm Reimbursement			22,997	100.0
			<u>\$109,402</u>	

Other Data

During FY 1998, 2,242 applicants signed in for services and we processed 1,182 written applications requiring individual in-depth interviews. We issued 2,413 purchase orders as we financially assisted 756 unduplicated households consisting of families or couples and single-person households. Many other applicants were assisted through contacts and referrals to other agencies. SSI Interim Assistance agreements filed resulted in reimbursement from 26 SSI cases. One hundred fifty-eight recipients completed 4,305 hours of workfare at various sites including public works, the schools, city center and the library. Other recipients participated in various educational, vocational and rehabilitative classes and programs as appropriate.

The direct expenditures for general assistance for the entire state totaled \$7,419,248 in 1998 compared to \$8,063,212 in 1997. The Department of Human Services reimbursed municipalities for in excess of 50% of that cost. The state does not reimburse any portion of administrative costs incurred by municipalities.

The staff of the Bureau of Health and Welfare work closely with many other city and state departments and various other agencies who provide services utilized by our clients. We appreciate their ongoing cooperation and support.

— Mary Frances Bartlett
Director

Old Fort Western

Old Fort Western enjoyed a busy and successful year in 1998. Total attendance for the year was 16,969. Just over 3,300 people visited during the summer, including 650 Augusta residents. School program participation at the Fort and in classrooms around the state totaled 13,554, another new record. Augusta students participating in school programs numbered 2,028. Fifty-four youngsters participated in the summer apprentice program, 36 more than the previous year.

In the area of historic preservation, new supports were placed beneath original framing timbers in the 1754 main house cellars. New posts and braces were installed around the 1998 north and south plank gates. In addition, threshold barriers were removed in the house exhibit to provide better ADA accessibility.

In terms of collections, a successful three-to-one private match and the award of general operating support by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency, made possible major progress toward the cataloging and analysis of the Fort's archaeological collection. Negotiations also got underway regarding the acquisition of one of two surviving Howard Store account books.

On the funding side, the Trustees raised just under \$8,000 during the 1998 annual campaign, ably chaired by Marshall "Duke" Dulac. Another \$8,200 was donated in support of specific program initiatives.

Most significantly, the Fort, with the skilled assistance of the Apprenticeship of Rockland, built and launched a replica 18th-century bateau of the type used to boat supplies from Fort Western to Fort Halifax during the 1750's and 60's. Long a part of the Trustees' plans, the boat makes possible a direct interpretation link between the Fort and the Kennebec River. The project was funded exclusively by private contributions.



Finally, Augusta Trustees John Finnegan and Brian Whitney completed terms of service during 1998. We thank them, all Fort members and donors from Augusta, and all other Augusta residents, for their continuing support and confidence.

—Jay Adams
Director & Curator

The Fort's new bateau leaves the shore on launch day (October 11).



Apprentice programs — youngsters work in the Fort's garden.

Superintendent of Schools

The past year was a very busy one for the Augusta Schools. Important issues have been raised and important decisions have been made. The Augusta Board of Education has completed the review of the district's facilities needs and has developed recommendations for facilities. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation Report was received and their recommendations have been thoroughly reviewed and remedial action recommended and in many cases completed. The Maine Learning Results continue to be part of all curriculum work. In particular, staff training has focused on the integration of the Learning Results in the curriculum and the development of a student assessment program. A new assessment system will provide information as to progress toward achieving the Learning Results.

The Board of Education presented their recommendations to the community concerning Augusta school facilities. The Board's major recommendation concerned the replacement of the current Cony High School facility and replacing it with a totally new facility to be located at the site of the current Capital Area Technical Center. This advisory question was presented to the voters in November and was approved by 70% of those voting. The next step for the Board is to prepare an application requesting concept approval and a rating from the State. The major complicating factor is still the lack of a commitment of State funds for construction. The process dictates that an application be filed with the State. The State then rates the project as to need and the State Board of Education approves the project if money is available. Also as a part of the facilities planning process, the Augusta Schools have applied for funds for the renovation of buildings which are available from the State for health and safety issues.

Technology's ability to provide information for all citizens is demonstrated by the use by the City and the schools of the internet. The City of Augusta provides a web page which was developed by Cony High School students. This advertises the city all over the world and is easily accessed. You can access that at <http://www.ci.augusta.me.us>. The Augusta Schools have developed a web site which allows citizens to contact Augusta school employees, learn more about the schools and programs, look at Board agendas, look at student work, and learn about job openings. The address for the school web page is <http://www.cony-hs.augusta.k12.me.us>. The other major communications resource available to the community is CTV-7, Channel 7, the government and education cable channel. CTV-7 both educates students in multi-media production and provides information, access to public meetings, entertainment, and promotion of local activities. Augusta is very fortunate to have this available. The creative use of technology will help to market Augusta and can act to assist economic development.

The Augusta Board of Education has set Wednesday as their meeting night. Regular monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month on a rotating schedule in our schools. Four times a year, the Board televises its

meetings on Channel 7. For further information or a full agenda, please call the superintendent's office (626-2468). The public is always welcome at all meetings of the Board.

As I will be retiring at the end of the 1998-99 school year, I would like to express my thanks to all Augusta citizens for their strong and continued support for the Augusta Schools. I would like to express a special note of thanks to the Augusta Board of Education for their support for nine years. The City is very fortunate to have a dedicated and balanced Board of Education. Their many hours are spent in negotiations, workshops, and committee meetings. My thanks to all of those who have served over the past nine years and to all the great staff members and citizens who have contributed to much to the youth of Augusta.

— H. Graham Nye
Superintendent of Schools



Seated left to right: Janet L. Radsky (Ward 4), Mark S. O'Brien (Chairperson), Donna R. Doore (Ward 2). Standing: Jon Ryder (At Large), Matthew F. Dyer (At Large), Gary G. Veilleux (Ward 3). Missing: Marc H. Guimont (At Large) and Frank A. Johnson (Ward 1).

City Arborist

Even though our community forest seemed to suffer heavy damage due to the huge ice storm of January 1998, in reality it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Other than a few valuable individual specimen trees lost or slightly disfigured, most of the trees lost were species that are considered undesirable; i.e., box elders, locust, willows, and poplars. Those varieties are not good trees in a community forest situation. Due to the damage to these trees by the storm, we were able to remove a good many of them as well as preserve most of our more valuable trees such as maples, oaks, pines, and flowering crab apples.

With money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), we were able to perform emergency pruning to well over 3,000 trees to make them safe and remove many of our unwanted trees. This work continued up until August 1st.

Thanks to the successful effort of our Washington Congressional Delegation to get more money into the State for additional community forestry maintenance and tree removals, Augusta is the recipient of \$210,000 of this new money.

Within the next 12 to 18 months, we plan on doing more extensive tree pruning and removals, including stump removals along with many new tree plantings. With this money, along with the City's 25% match, it will allow us to put our total community forest in tip top shape, and produce a sound forest management plan that will carry Augusta well into the 21st century.

Here are some of the other projects either completed or in progress this past year by your City forestry department:

1. Planted 84 new trees along with many new shrubs.
2. Planted six new tulip and lily beds.
3. Redesigned the entrance into the City Center using perennials, granite, and crushed rock.
4. Completed an extensive City-wide tree assessment.
5. Expanded the City nursery.
6. Revitalized many overgrown plantings throughout the City.
7. Continued to enhance the Western Avenue gateway, as well as other City exits and entrances.
8. Continued working closely with the Augusta Tree Board in developing a solid forest management plan along with a strong tree related educational program for all City residents.

— David L. Gomeau
City Arborist

Augusta Cable Television Committee

The Augusta Cable Television Committee has two major responsibilities: (1) monitoring the City's cable television franchise with the franchisee; and (2) overseeing CTV-7 Augusta, the City's education and government cable channel.

In fulfilling the first responsibility, committee chair Ted Ruark participated in the City's discussions concerning the transfer of the franchise from State Cable to FrontierVision. The committee appreciates the work of City Manager Bill Bridgeo and Director of Community Services Jeff Zimmerman in that process.

The committee recognizes the work of General Manager Bill Dunn in the development of programming for CTV-7 Augusta. In September, the NASA Channel was added to the regular programming of the station and, that same month, a standard daily schedule was created, increasing viewer knowledge of CTV-7 programming.

The committee welcomed Katy Perry and Scott Hamilton as new members, joining Ellerbe Cole, Roger Levesque, and Ted Ruark as appointed members. Ken Knight, representing the City Council, and Frank Johnson, representing the Board of Education, ended their terms of office on the committee. We look forward to working with their appointed replacements.

CTV-7 Augusta is operated in conjunction with the Multi-Media Program at the Capital Area Technical Center. Each fall new students learn the art and science of television production through the real-life experiences of studio and remote broadcasting: an excellent example of technology education ("learning while doing"). In January 1998, the station's staff and remote broadcasting capabilities assisted the City as it provided up-to-the-minute information about the local impact of Ice Storm '98. In addition, CTV-7 Augusta continued to work with the Augusta Tree Board, Fire and Police Departments, and Augusta Sanitary District to produce educational programs for cable subscribers.

The committee expresses its thanks to Bill Dunn and Chris Davis for their continued commitment to quality education and government programming and to the education of C.A.T.C. students. A sincere thanks also to Jeff Zimmerman, whose expertise and assistance has made the past year both enjoyable and possible.

— Walter T. Ruark
Chair

Augusta Tree Board

The Augusta Tree Board has been very active this year meeting on a monthly basis with many new and ongoing projects.

We have developed our first promotional piece of literature outlining our history, mission statement, and benefits of a community forest. It also contains a brief overview of many of the programs we are currently involved in.

Activities we are focusing on include educational programs, development of Savage Park, I-95 Gateway, Western Avenue beautification, Memorial Plantings, Arbor Month Celebration activities, development of private-public relationships and the replanting of the City from the Ice Storm.

A new and exciting project is the development of our quarterly newsletter "Branching Out." Our first issue should be ready in May.

Last, but not least, is our fund-raising activities and development of a trust fund to ensure the future of Augusta's trees. This is being accomplished through our Millennium Tree Challenge of which our goal is to raise \$100,000. Through the generosity of local businesses and residents, we are halfway to our goal.

It has been a pleasure working with the board, our City Arborist, the Directory of Community Services and the Parks Department over this past year.

— Norman S. Elvin
Chairperson

MEMBERS OF THE 118th LEGISLATURE

(terms exp. 12/1/98)

DISTRICT 94

State Representative: Charles E. Mitchell
Home Address: RR 3, Box 6520
Vassalboro, ME 04989
Telephone: 207-622-2760

DISTRICT 95

State Representative: David R. Madore
Home Address: 197 Northern Avenue
Augusta, ME 04330
Telephone: 207-626-0982

Year-Round Toll Free House of Representatives Message Center: 1-800-423-2900

Maine Legislative Internet Web Site—<http://www.state.me.us/legis>

DISTRICT 15

Senator: Beverly C. Daggett
Home Address: 16 Pine Street
Augusta, ME 04330
Telephone: 207-622-9053

Year-Round Toll Free Senate Message Center: 1-800-423-6900

DISTRICT 96

State Representative: Julie Ann O'Brien
Home Address: 12 Myrtle Street
Augusta, ME 04330
Telephone: 207-623-2930
Capitol Address: House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Capitol Telephone: 207-287-1400 (Voice)
207-287-4469 (TTY)

Capitol Address: Senate Office
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Telephone: 207-287-1540 (Voice)
207-287-1583 (TTY)

REPRESENTATIVES TO U.S. CONGRESS

Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R)
250 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-5344

Term Expires: January, 2001
District Office
3 Canal Plaza
PO Box 188 DTS
Portland, ME 04112
Tel: 207-874-0883

Senator Susan M. Collins (R)
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1904
Tel: 202-224-2523

Term Expires: January, 2003
District Office
202 Harlow Street, Rm. 204
PO Box 655
Bangor, ME 04401
Tel: 207-945-0417

Representative Thomas H. Allen (D)
1717 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: 202-225-6116

Term Expires: January, 2001
District Office
234 Oxford Street
Portland, ME 04101
Tel: 207-774-5019

Representative John E. Baldacci (D)
1740 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: 202-225-6306

Term Expires: January, 2001
District Office
202 Harlow Street, Room 235
Bangor, ME 04401-1237
Tel: 207-942-6935

City of Augusta Telephone Numbers

POLICE AND FIRE EMERGENCIES 911

CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Codes	626-2368
Engineering	626-2365
Hatch Hill Facility	626-2440
Planning	626-2366
Public Works	626-2435
Solid Waste	626-2435

CIVIC CENTER

Administration	626-2405
Ticket Office	626-2400

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Administration	626-2350
Buildings/Grounds /Cemeteries	626-2350
Fort Western Museum	626-2385
Health and Welfare	626-2325
Lithgow Library	626-2415
Parks and Recreation	626-2350

EDUCATION & GOVERNMENT

CHANNEL (CHANNEL 7)	626-2475
----------------------------------	-----------------

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

City Manager's Office	626-2300
Mayor & City Council Office	626-2300
City Clerk's Office	626-2310
Community Development	626-2355
Economic Development	626-2336
Human Resources	626-2300
Tax Assessor	626-2320
Voter Registration	626-2360

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Auditor	626-2340
Information Systems	626-2345
Treasurer/Tax Collector	626-2314

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Non-Emergency Business	626-2422
Civil Emergency Preparedness	626-2422

HOUSING AUTHORITY	626-2357
--------------------------------	-----------------

PARKING DISTRICT	626-2362
-------------------------------	-----------------

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Non-Emergency Business	626-2370
------------------------------	----------

PRESS 0—EMERGENCY

- 1—To report an accident/incident or request a medical transfer
- 2—General information or police services
- 5—Directory of names

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Adult Education	626-2470
Buker School	626-2450
Cony Alternative School	626-2445
Cony High School	626-2460
Farrington School	626-2480
Gilbert School	626-2491
Hodgkins School	626-2490
Human Resources	626-2527
Hussey School	626-2461
Kennebec Learning Center	287-3209
Lincoln School	626-2483
School Transportation	622-3650
Superintendent's Office	626-2468
Technical Center	626-2475